

FALL STATED MEETING DOCKET

Presbytery of St. Augustine

Trinity Presbyterian Church

October 4, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Jerie Lukefahr, Moderator

*The mission of the Presbytery of St. Augustine is to support our faith community,
so that together we are a greater witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

8:30 a.m. WELCOMING TIME

The coffee reception and late registration table will open at 8:30 a.m. We welcome everyone to arrive early so that you have time to enjoy some in-person fellowship. We will also have a welcome desk with information for first time commissioners who are able to attend in person. First time commissioners who cannot attend in person are invited to call Sandra Hedrick (stated clerk) at 904-612-9766 (cell) with any questions you have in advance of the meeting.

9:30 a.m. OPENING AGENDA

Moderator's Greeting, Prayer, and Meeting Host Greeting
Zoom Overview and Practice Vote
Quorum and Docket Approval
Welcome to First Time Commissioners and Guests
Welcome to Corresponding Members
Appointment of Tellers
Approval of Consent Agenda Items in Docket
Call Commission - Memorial Moments for Lloyd Alamsha,
Dalton Burch, and Charles DeVane (see Appendix A)

9:45 a.m. WORSHIP

Morning Message - Rev. Carlton Johnson (Presbyterian Mission Agency)
Offering - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

10:45 a.m. FELLOWSHIP BREAK

11:10 ACTION AGENDA

**Coordinating Council
Joe Albright - Chair**

The Coordinating Council recommends that the presbytery take the following actions:

1. Approve recommended amendment to the Manual of Operations.
2. Receive the 2023 Asking Budget.
3. Approve “Guidelines for Stewardship of Funds from Dismissed Churches and the Sale of Properties of Closed Churches.”

Note: Appendix B contains all Coordinating Council written materials.

**General Assembly Commissioners
Steve Crowley, John Diller,
Jennifer Hallberg, and Connie Smith**

Our commissioners will share highlights of their experiences at the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). (Appendix C)

**Nominating/Representation Teams
Patti Phillips, Chair**

The Nominating Team will present nominations for service to presbytery teams and commissions. (Appendix D)

**Call Commission
Joy Laughridge, Chair**

The Call Commission will introduce three new presbytery members: John White (honorably retired and transitional pastor, Community), Lauren Scott (associate pastor, Riverside), and Dawn Mayes (pastor, First Fernandina Beach). (Appendix E)

The commission has completed its annual review and check-in with our minister members who serve in validated ministries or are ministers at-large, and it expresses gratitude for them. (Appendix F)

Presbytery Ministry Headlines

Please welcome speakers from Presbyterian Women, Mutual Mission, Highlands Regional Ministry Center, and Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center (Appendix G)

Stated Clerk Communications

The stated clerk will read a Permanent Judicial Commission decision in the disciplinary case styled “Presbytery of St. Augustine vs. Walter Laseter,” as required by the Rules of Discipline of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Invited Speakers/Preview of the Lunch 'N' Learn

This time is designated as speaking time for any other invited speakers and for Rev. Carlton Johnson (Associate for Vital Congregations, Presbyterian Mission Agency) to provide a preview of the program he will present during our Fellowship Lunch. We have invited David Staniunas, Records Archivist, Presbyterian Historical Society, to share a message with us during this time.

SPEAK OUT TIME

Speak-out Time is open to ministers and commissioners who would like to share about glimpses of grace or expressions of gratitude in the community of the Presbytery of St. Augustine. Speak-out Time is limited to one minute per person.

CLOSING AGENDA AND FRIENDSHIP LUNCH LUNCH 'N' LEARN

Following the closing prayer, everyone is invited to a Lunch 'N' Learn presented by Rev. Carlton Johnson. The subject is “Insights on the Congregational Life Cycle.”

The Winter Stated Meeting will be held on February 4, 2023, at a time and place to be determined.

CONSENT AGENDA

Stated Clerk Communications

The stated clerk provides the following communications:

1. Those who submitted requests to be excused will be shown as excused in the attendance records of this meeting.
2. This meeting is a corporate meeting for both the Presbytery of St. Augustine, Inc. and Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center, Inc.
3. The annual session clerk workshop will be held by Zoom on Thursday evening, November 3, and on Saturday morning, November 5.
4. Provided in Appendix H are the minutes of the installation of Mark Hults as Pastor of First Gainesville.
5. At a hearing on August 30, 2022, the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) approved a request for approval as to the disposition of disciplinary charges filed against Walter Laseter (formerly commissioned as a ruling elder to pastoral service with the Weirsdale church). These charges were filed with the session of the First Ocala church and then received by the PJC for purposes of further action. The order and censure of the PJC will be read by the stated clerk at the Fall Stated Meeting as required by the Rules of Discipline.
6. On April 26, 2022, a remedial complaint was filed with the PJC against the session of Geneva Presbyterian Church by Stin Lenkerd, a member of the church. On June 9, 2022, an answer was filed, and notice was given to the parties that the case had been received and is pending.
7. An update on the status of session minute reading will be provided in the “Clerk’s Resources” area of our web page.

Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council provides the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements included as a part of Appendix B and recommends that the presbytery take these actions:

1. Authorize the Coordinating Council to appoint a stated clerk selection committee and that the Coordinating Council and the Nominating Team present for election at the appropriate time an individual to serve in a new term beginning at the 2023 Winter Stated Meeting or as soon thereafter as possible.
2. Approve additional housing allowance of \$500 per month and appropriate SECA for the stated clerk effective immediately for the time period after the departure of the Ministry and Mission Coordinator until the arrival of a new colleague with the same or different title, and approve the addition of five hours to the stated clerk's average weekly hours provided in the current terms of call (20) for a total of 25.
3. Authorize the Coordinating Council to made additional revisions to the Employee Handbook as it deems are needed and to report any changes made to the next presbytery meeting after such changes are made.
4. Authorize the Coordinating Council to make revisions to the sexual misconduct and child protection policies and to report changes made to the next presbytery meeting after such changes are made.

In addition, the Coordinating Council reports the following summary of actions taken (a complete and detailed record is contained in the approved Coordinating Council minutes provided as a part of Appendix B.)

1. Designated the Fall Stated Meeting as a hybrid meeting and designated Presbyterian Disaster Assistance as recipient of the meeting offering.
2. Approved an invitation to Rev. Carlton Johnson (Presbyterian Mission Agency - Vital Congregations Initiative) to preach at the meeting and lead a workshop on vital congregations.

3. Approved the minutes of the 2022 Spring Stated Meeting (copies available from the stated clerk upon request).
4. Approved an Asking Budget, approved amendments to the Manual of Operations for presentation to the presbytery at the Fall Stated Meeting, and made plans for additional discussion and conversation partners moving forward about strategic planning and congregational vitality.
5. Approved a motion to appoint a Generosity Team for the 2022-2023 year.
6. Approved the new employee handbook (see Appendix I).
7. Approved lodging reimbursement for two General Assembly commissioners so that they could stay overnight and attend GA at the presbytery office host site.
8. Approved a motion to increase the housing allowance of the area relationship coordinator (ARC) Joe Rigsby to \$500 per month during the time he acts as convener/team leader of the ARCs following the departure of the Ministry and Mission Coordinator effective immediately.
9. Approved a motion from the Personnel Team to engage Idea Recruitment to post the Communications Coordinator position, screen/interview candidates, and forward the best candidates to the Personnel Team.
10. Approved a motion to engage Breanna Sooter (Director of Communication and Technology at the Riverside church) as an independent contractor to assist with communications and social media needs until a new Communications Coordinator is place.
11. Received the stated clerk's request to end her term on the date of the 2023 Winter Stated Meeting rather than on October 31, 2023 as designated at the time of her most recent election.
12. Received the news that Holly Dillon Inglis, our Ministry and Mission Coordinator, has been called to serve as the General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay and will serve her last day in our presbytery on September 9 and

that Marigrace Doran, Communications Coordinator will serve her last day on September 22, 2022.

13. Received regular reports on the Coordinating Council's commitment to "Visit Every Session/Congregation."
14. Approved the following grant requests from the following sessions/churches: Countryside, Faith, Fort Caroline, Green Cove Springs First, Murray Hill, and Westminster. These grants came from the Charles J. Williams Fund and the Small Church Revitalization Fund.
15. Approved granting the sum of \$1,700 from the Armistead Fund to help fund the clergy retreat to be held October 17-19, 2022.
16. Approved a grant request from Memorial Presbyterian Church for a multigenerational mental health ministry grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Community Development Fund.
17. Approved the use of funds from the "Pentecost Fund" to subsidize the fee for youth from small congregations (200 and under) who would like to attend the "Light the Fire" youth retreat. Also approved the use of \$6,000 of Pentecost and Triennium funds for at risk and other Montgomery summer campers in need. With regard to future youth retreats, the Coordinating Council specified that scholarships (fee subsidies) for youth from small congregations may continue to be drawn from the designated "Pentecost Fund."
18. Approved proposed "Guidelines for Stewardship of Funds from Dismissed Churches and the Sale of Properties of Closed Churches" to present to the presbytery at the Fall Stated Meeting.
19. Endorsed the use and purposes of a grant obtained by Diakonos Solutions (Susan Rose) from PMA's Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries that focuses on working with ordained women serving in part-time congregational ministry positions within the presbytery. It will emphasize connection, care and renewal - vital aspects for ministry longevity that tend to be overlooked in part-time positions.

20. Approved the Gainesville Campus Ministry Annual Plan for 2022-2023 and related documents and communicated its approval of the Annual Plan to the Synod of South Atlantic.
21. Received the Ministry and Mission Coordinator's report that four individuals have agreed to participate in Vital Congregations Initiative facilitator training: Vickie Bossuot (TE - Lakewood and Validated Ministry), Julie Higbee (TE - First Fernandina Beach), Rebecca Hutto (Validated Ministry), and Mary Beth Neely (RE - Fort King).
22. Approved the stated clerk's request to appoint a small group primarily from the Care and Reconciliation Team to accompany the Peace church's discernment of ministry, mission, and property matters.

Call Commission

The Call Commission reports that as of September 20, 2022, the minimum effective salary for full-time installed pastors is \$48,489, which is an increase of 5.73% over the minimum published at the 2021 Fall Stated Meeting.

The commission also reports the following actions taken since the Spring Stated Meeting:

1. Approved the following action, which has been placed on our website and will be circulated to pastor nominating committees and sessions: "Examination of teaching elders shall be conducted by the Call Commission: (1) in the case of an installed position, after the pastor nominating committee has issued the call and the candidate has accepted, but before the session schedules a congregational meeting; and (2) in the case of a temporary pastor (stated supply, interim, parish associate, etc.), after the session and candidate have agreed to a written agreement and terms of call, but before the pastor begins serving under the agreement and terms of call (provided that a stated supply or parish associate may serve as Sunday supply before the examination). These requirements may be waived for good cause with a 75% affirmative vote of the membership of the Call Commission, which may be taken via email or at a called meeting at the discretion of the chair."

2. Received reports concerning the inquirers and candidates under our care and churches in transition and held consultations with candidates Justin Forbes (Memorial) and Carter Grant (Geneva).
3. Approved providing scholarships in the amount of \$100 per seminary credit hour, first using the Call Commission budget and then the designated Candidate's Support Fund. The recipients are: Carter Grant (Geneva), Brian Mitchell (Lakewood), Jessica Means (Riverside), and Mary Scine (Memorial).
4. Sustained the examination of John White (honorably retired) for membership (transferring from the Presbytery of the Coastlands).
5. Sustained the examination of Lauren Scott for ordination and to serve as associate pastor at Riverside; approved the terms of call; and approved a motion that we request that the Presbytery of Florida ordain her and transfer her to the Presbytery of St. Augustine immediately after the ordination. The commission also approved a motion that she begin her work at Riverside prior to ordination.
6. Sustained the examination and approved the call and terms of call for Dawn Mayes, who will serve as pastor of First Fernandina Beach. The commission also approved receiving Rev. Mayes into membership upon transfer from National Capital Presbytery.
7. Validated the ministry of Rebecca Hutto as Executive Director of the Interfaith Center of Northeast Florida.
8. Approved the following temporary pastor contract or renewals:
 1. Jessi Higginbotham and St. Giles (parish associate) as of January 1
 2. Karl Kling and First Fernandina Beach (interim pastor) as of June 1
 3. Jennifer Hallberg and First White Springs (stated supply) as of June 26
 4. Bob Mills and San Mateo (stated supply) as of July 1
 5. Jim Black and Mayport (stated supply) (approved compensation increase)
 6. Bob Shettler and McIntosh (parish associate) as of October 1
 7. John White and Community (transitional pastor) as of October 1

9. Approved the following dissolutions: (a) Melanie Marsh-Baum (pastor) and Community Presbyterian Church as of May 16, (b) Karl Kling (interim pastor) and First Fernandina Beach as of August 8, and (c) Ron Watson (pastor) and First Ocala as of August 31.
10. Approved the following member transfers: (a) John Harland to the Presbytery of the Cascades as of July 28, (b) Tim Roberts to the Presbytery of Tropical Florida as of August 20, and (c) Holly Dillon Ingles to the Presbytery of Tampa Bay as of September 20. Also approved the transfer of Laurie Furr-Vancini to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina when the way be clear (effective date to be placed in the minutes of this meeting) and approved her laboring outside the bounds in a temporary pastor relationship with a congregation in that presbytery until the effective date of transfer.
11. Approved the following minister member retirements: (a) Conrad Sharps as of September 1 (Appendix J), (b) Joyce Lieberman as of October 1, and (c) Karl Kling as of October 7.
12. Approved the request of the Highlands United church to elect a PNC.
13. Approved the request of Roy Sharpe, member of Central Florida Presbytery, to include his name on our preaching supply list.
14. Interviewed Jesse Bozeman, ruling elder at the Murray Hill church, who seeks to be certified to be commissioned as a CRE; affirmed the work he has done; and provided guidance for completion of that work.
15. Endorsed Diakonos Solutions' (non-profit led by teaching elder Susan Rose) use of its grant from the Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries Committee to sponsor a retreat time for female minister members of our presbytery serving congregations in part-time calls.
16. With regard to the request of Wain Wesberry to be restored to ordered ministry, the commission voted do the following within the six months, obtaining any releases that may be necessary: examine the trial record, and, to the extent that such persons are willing, consider interviewing members of the Permanent

Judicial Commission, the prosecuting committee chair, the defense counsel, and witnesses. After consideration of the findings of this review, the commission will take a vote on whether it is proper to proceed with speaking with the applicant to hear evidence as to why he considers himself ready to enter into a plan for restoration. If the applicant is considered ready, the commission will proceed with the development of a case-specific restoration plan (if not considered ready, the commission will establish a time after which the commission determines proceedings may be prudent). The commission also held a meeting with Flor Vélez-Díaz, (Manager of Judicial Process of the PC(USA)) who answered questions about the constitutional process of restoration. On September 20, 2022, the commission voted to hold a special meeting before December 1, 2022, for the purpose of discussing this matter, with the guidance of commission leadership, including inviting interviews with impact witnesses, and then to subsequently establish whether it is time to have conversation with Wain Wesberry regarding his request for restoration.

The following temporary moderators were appointed to serve as noted: Walk Jones - First Ocala; Beverly Dempsey - Community (Joyce Lieberman and Sandra Hedrick each moderated a session meeting during this time period); Cliff Lyda - San Mateo; Jim Black - Murray Hill; Rhonda Link-Cummings - High Springs; Vickie Bossuot - Calvin; Charles Freeman - Covenant; Branford - Larry Neal; Perry - Don McGarity. In addition, Paul Fossett, former CRE of First White Springs was authorized to moderate a session and congregational meeting there.

Presbytery Trustees

Ana Lugo-Berrios - President and Chair

The Trustees of the Presbytery of St. Augustine have taken the following actions since the Spring Stated Meeting:

1. Approved the affirmations required by the Presbyterian Loan and Investment Corporation (PILP) for its loan to Trinity (Palm Coast) in an amount up to \$250,000 including a guaranty of the loan.

2. Approved the Covenant church's request to sell a small portion of its property that is not used in its ministry.
3. Reviewed the Korean church's request to sell its campus and move to another location and referred it to a small group to assist the church in the steps to be taken.
4. Approved the Westminster church's request to permit Family Promise to use a portion of the church property for ten years pursuant to a "User License Agreement."
5. Approved the Fort King church's request to sell a part of its church property that is not used in its ministry.
6. Extended the closing date on the Normandy property at the request of the purchaser.
7. Listed for sale the Reddick and Middleburg closed church properties.
8. Approved removing dilapidated playground equipment and a fallen tree from the Middleburg property.
9. Approved and completed the repaving of the parking lot at the presbytery office in Jacksonville.
10. Retained a legal representative regarding Highlands Regional Ministry Center matters.
11. Approved opening a small-balance second checking account at South State in order to issue debit cards for Holly Dillon Inglis and Lisa Wells.
12. Approved Joy Laughridge (TE, Lakewood) as an additional check signer.

St. Augustine Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission
Hunter Camp, Chair

The presbytery established the “St. Augustine Disaster Assistance Commission” (SAPDAC) to respond to damaging storms - such as hurricanes and tornadoes - and other disasters occurring within our presbytery bounds. It can seek funding from the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program (PDA); it creates a working communication chain within the presbytery and in a network with other Florida presbyteries; and it provides resources and assistance to our congregations. For the 2022 hurricane season, it has provided resources to the presbytery in previous email that are also provided in Appendix K to this docket.

Administrative Commissions
Reddick, Middleburg, and Lake Shore

Administrative Commission reports may be found in Appendix L.

End of Consent Agenda